

Mr. TURNER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we begin the debate on the 9/11 Commission recommendations today, we must ask the central question: are we as safe as we need to be. The answer is no, and it is all about the choices that we have made.

In the 2 years before 9/11, we secured more loose nuclear material than we did in the 2 years after 9/11. We have yet to install the radiation portals we need at our ports to detect nuclear material. We still do not have a unified terrorist watch list. Mr. Speaker, 120,000 hours of untranslated terrorist-related wiretaps remain untranslated at the FBI. Mr. Speaker, 20,000 illegal immigrants from places other than Mexico were released into our own country last year because of a lack of detention space.

In 2004, we invested about \$20 billion more in homeland security than we did in the year of 9/11, but we granted 4 times that in tax relief to the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans.

It is all about choices, and we have made the wrong choices because our leadership has not committed us to making America as safe as we need to be.

TROOPS VOTE FOR BUSH

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as a 31-year veteran of the Army National Guard and the parent of 3 children serving in the military, including a son in Iraq, I am glad to report our troops are clearly supporting the reelection of President Bush. According to the independent *Army Times*, America's troops are voting today for President Bush by a margin of over 4 to 1.

Our troops know firsthand President Bush is courageously leading the successful fight against the terrorists on the global war on terrorism. He is the commander-in-chief to trust with their lives. American service members know in a time of war, we need a clear message to the murderers of children. President Bush has a hopeful vision of victory established by our competent troops who have liberated over 50 million people from Afghanistan to Iraq.

In my three visits to Iraq, I have seen and met the new greatest generation who are making history for democracy. President Bush clearly understands with our troops that the best way to protect American families is to take the war to the terrorists. We must fight at the source to reduce the potential for warfare in the streets of America.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. We will never forget September 11.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK

(Ms. HERSETH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Mental Illness Awareness Week, an opportunity to educate ourselves and our constituents about mental illness in America.

One of the first pieces of legislation I cosponsored in this body was the Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act, which requires parity for mental health services under private insurance plans. But this legislation would do something else. It would move us one step closer to eradicating the undue stigma often associated with mental illness.

As many as 1 in 5 children and adolescents suffer from mental illness in the United States, but many go untreated because of feelings of shame or guilt, or because parents, schools, and communities lack the information and resources essential to prevent the worsening of mental health problems and for early detection, and to improve treatment outcomes.

Many Americans, when diagnosed with a mental illness, confront both a frightening disease and a public that can be uninformed about the nature of their illness. Through educational campaigns like the National Mental Illness Awareness Week and smart, targeted policy initiatives, we can look forward to overcoming the stigma associated with mental illness in our communities and make life a little easier for all Americans suffering from mental illness and for their families as well.

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT RUSSELL L. COLLIER

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of America's bravest, Sergeant Russell L. Collier from the Third District of Arkansas.

Sergeant Collier, an Army National Guard medic from Harrison, Arkansas, was killed in action in Iraq earlier this week. He died when he came under enemy fire while aiding fellow soldier Sergeant Chris Potts who had been wounded in ambush. Sergeant Collier and Sergeant Potts became the first casualties of the 206th Field Artillery Battalion of Arkansas's 39th Infantry Brigade.

Sergeant Collier spent most of his adult life sacrificing for our country. In 1975 he enlisted in the U.S. Army, later transferred to the U.S. Navy, and then joined the Arkansas National Guard in September 1999.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Russell L. Collier is a true American hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. I ask my colleagues to keep Russell's family and friends, especially his wife and 9-year-old son, in their prayers during this difficult time

BORDER SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply concerned about the State of our Nation's border security. If we cannot secure our land borders where 80 percent of all people enter our country, then we are simply not safe as a Nation.

In 1994, there were 2.7 million truck crossings on the southern border. In 2003, this traffic increased to 4.2 million crossings. In 1994, there were 66 million personal vehicles crossing into the United States from Mexico. In 2003, the number of personal vehicles rose to 88 million, carrying 194 million passengers.

These numbers cry out for a substantial investment in our borders, and what do we get? The administration has failed to meet our security and commercial needs by investing in our Nation's port of entry.

In 2003, the Department of Homeland Security's own Data Management Improvement Act Task Force reported that more than 70 percent of the 166 land ports of entry have inadequate infrastructure. What is the response? More investment? No. Typically, the administration shut down the task force. They are famous for that.

We need a substantial investment in border infrastructure tied to a vulnerability assessment to ensure national security.

HONORING BEN GAMACHE

(Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ben Gamache upon being named the 2004 Small Businessperson of the Year by the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

Ben is the owner and chief executive officer of Gamache Enterprises, a commercial real estate investment firm in Manchester, New Hampshire. The company has proven its staying power as an established business and presence in the community for the last 27 years. Even though there have been tough economic times, Gamache enterprises has continued to invest in the community and refurbish unused or run-down mill and retail space to become thriving commercial properties.

Ben is a member of the Board of Directors for the Commercial Realtors and has invested thousands of dollars of his own money for revitalization projects on one of downtown Manchester side streets.

Ben has invested himself personally in the community with as much vigor and passion as he invests in himself as a businessperson. His most notable

contribution to the community has been his dedication to Easter Seals New Hampshire.

Ben's efforts have made Manchester a better business and residential community. I am honored to represent concerned and conscientious citizens like Ben Gamache in the United States House of Representatives.

HOMELAND SECURITY SHOULD BRING UNITY IN HOUSE

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as an ethical cloud hovers over the House of Representatives, as the fog of misrepresentation on the war in Iraq is slowly lifting, homeland security should be one thing that unites this country. But sadly, the greatest failure of the Republican leadership is the inability to bring us together around this issue.

The squabbling on a flawed bill later this morning is just one more example. It is not just its bad provisions; it ducks entirely the issue of unifying our fractured intelligence service. The 9/11 Commission under Governor Kean and Lee Hamilton did their job in a bipartisan manner. The Senate, working together with every, every Republican supporting it, did theirs. The tragedy for the House and the American people is that the House Republican leadership is unable to do their job with this critical task. The good news is the Senate and the 9/11 Commission did their job.

Mr. Speaker, it is more important than ever that the American people do their job on Election Day.

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AMERICANS MISLED

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, the Duelfer report submitted by the chief U.S. weapons inspector to Congress yesterday confirms what we already knew: Iraq has no weapons of mass destruction, no nuclear weapons, no weapons programs. There is no evidence that Saddam Hussein had a plan to recruit or the capabilities to rebuild his arsenal of chemical and biological weapons.

Yet, George Bush, DICK CHENEY continue to mislead the American people by ignoring the facts and trying to justify the invasion of a nation that we now know posed no imminent threat to the United States. It is bad enough that we went to war based on the worst intelligence in this Nation's history. What is shameful and unforgivable is that the President who led us into this unnecessary war refuses to acknowledge our profound mistake and take responsibility for it.

The smirk, the swagger, the unbending stubbornness of this President has worn thin in the face of the reality of what is going on on the ground in Iraq. It is time that we elect a President with true leadership characteristics who will not lie to the American people and who can restore the respect and honor we once enjoyed in the world community.

HONORING FIRE CAPTAIN RICK BENNETT

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Fire Captain Rick Bennett, a man whose selfless service keeps the citizens of Georgia's 11th district safe each and every day.

This past Monday morning, I had the privilege of attending a Public Safety Appreciation Breakfast to honor Captain Bennett of the Cobb County Fire and Emergency Service. The award, Public Safety Employee of the Year, is given annually to an individual who has performed with exceptional skill, expertise, and innovation.

Captain Bennett has worked for Cobb County for 13 years and is assigned to one of the busiest stations in the county, Fire Station No. 8 in Kennesaw, Georgia, where he is responsible for eight fire and hazmat personnel. Captain Bennett is considered an expert in the field of hazardous material response and training and recently was invited to instruct at the State Fire Academy.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's first responders are the brave souls risking their lives to prevent catastrophe, and Captain Bennett exemplifies the type of quality public safety employee that Georgia's 11th Congressional District has to offer, and he deserves our heartfelt thanks.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join in congratulating Captain Bennett for his fine work.

CHANGE IS NEEDED

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, we as Americans have been victims of lies, deceptions, and distractions. Today's LA Times reported that Saddam Hussein did not produce or possess any weapons of mass destruction for more than a decade before the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

Last year it was said, and it has been said repeatedly, that there were weapons of mass destruction. The Iraqi regime had no formal written strategy to revise the banned programs after sanctions and no staff or infrastructure in place to do so.

Mr. Speaker, more than a thousand U.S. troops have been killed and thou-

sands more have been wounded for a bogus reason. We have broken a country, and we need billions of dollars to rebuild while we are neglecting our own needs here at home. The House leadership has been rebuked and the administration has led us in the wrong direction. A change is definitely needed.

CBS' MEDIA BIAS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago the "CBS Evening News with Dan Rather" broadcast a story about alleged Bush administration efforts to revive the draft. This story was based on a phony anonymous e-mail that claimed a new draft was imminent, and it featured a mother who said she was fearful her children would be drafted, but CBS did not reveal she is a leader in a group that opposes the draft.

Two days ago the House rejected legislation that would have revived the draft by a vote of 402 to 2. CBS apparently is not aware of the House vote because last night's broadcast made no mention of it.

Mr. Speaker, so after airing a major story about the possibility of a draft, CBS failed to report an overwhelming vote of the Congress not to resume the draft and, unfortunately, made no efforts to provide the American people with the facts.

Mr. Speaker, this week's media bias award again goes to the "CBS Evening News."

THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, each and every day more and more information comes to light, and every single day we see more and more proof that there was no justification for this war in Iraq, no justification.

Did this administration and this President mislead, deceive, lie; or did they just fail to tell the truth? There was never ever any growing threat or any growing danger to our Nation. This President and his administration owe the community of nations, members of Congress, the American people, and the families of those who lost their lives in Iraq an apology.

This administration should come clean and tell the truth, nothing but the truth, the whole truth.

Now we learn that Iraq's weapons of mass destruction were destroyed after the first Gulf War. At the time we invaded Iraq, Iraq not only lacked any weapons of mass destruction; it lacked the capability to build them, and this administration knew it. They knew it. It is time to tell the truth and nothing